

UFO Sightings Show Increase

MIAMI, Fla. — Recently in The Miami News a page one story said "TROOPERS SPOT 'FLYING OBJECTS' OVER MIAMI."

In his follow-up story Thursday, writer Ian Glass in a second matter-of-fact and excellently written report on an inside page quoted some folks who said that such reports are far from uncommon, and the UFO's are seen over Miami (and other cities) all the time.

It occurs to me that we here in the ol' newspaper business are so accustomed to this fact — that UFOs aren't news anymore — that maybe we've neglected to tell the general public that.

I mean, Ian's story was news primarily because a number of "UFO's" were seen, and for quite a while, by a number of state troopers at various points . . . and it's pretty hard to argue with that.

(One definition of news, incidentally, is that news is a departure from the normal which is why the sort of idiot who blats to "put more good things in the paper" must be dumb.

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Sightings went from straight pooh-pooh to becoming somehow sacrosanct, although with all mistakenly termed "occult phenomena." Baloney. Mystic experiences of a valid nature are obviously older than mankind but each "occult revival" comes about, each cycle, mostly for the same reason the caveman killed the mammoth. He thought he knew where he could sell it.

Anyway, what I think the news is now is that "sightings" are at long last being regarded with possibly the beginning of the right mixture of — for lack of a better term — objective wonder.

If I were a UFO pilot I would wait until humans were used to the idea of me enough to refrain from (a) murdering me or (b) deifying me, or sending me on concert tour. That seems to be where our frame of mind is going . . . there's even a nice element of so-what boredom creeping in about UFOs.

I walk the beach at night more than anybody I know. This may be why I see lights I can't explain. But fear of ridicule doesn't keep me from talking about them. I have no fear of ridicule, either taking it, or dishing it out to darn fools who think we can make

John Keasler



space shots but that somehow space can't shoot back. Anyhow, my motivation is that if there's a UFO story, I want it. First.

(It's a complaint made even by some people posing as editors, but real newsmen know that (a) every paper is already loaded with "good" things, if they're unusually good, and "bad" things if they're unusually bad and that (b) editors and reporters don't create situations. They put news in the paper. If it's not valid news, consistently, the paper goes broke.)

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Glass found news value in his second story because he came up with credible sources — Dr. Irving Lillien, a chemistry professor active in research on the UFO phenomenon, and Norman Bean, also a national known expert in the field. And both men, again matter-of-factly, almost off-handly, said sure; whatever these things are, they're around all the time.

I think that is really a good news-feature story: One largely, at least to my knowledge, unreported. And, in fact, I think the entire UFO psychology of "sightings" has changed a lot, repeatedly, over the years . . . and is changing again now . . .

Ridicule of saucer-sighters was IN for years. I wrote my share of funny "sighting" stories, including self-ridicule. Then, ridicule was OUT, and too much so.

Anyway, when I read Ian's first story, I called home and said to my wife, "Hey, Margery . . . we got a UFO story. Some cops saw the lights we're always seeing."

"Which ones . . . which color?" asked (matter-of-factly) Margery, who knows about them. She's also a reporter and writer.

"The red and green flashing ones," I said, "that zoom off fast out over the ocean."

"I'll bet the cops were surprised, if they never saw any before," said Margery. "Listen, will you pick up the cleaning?"

That was her reaction. Really. We're used to innumerable calls from people who've seen them; we've seen swift

flashing lights across the sky ourselves, once in a while . . . in fact, I've stood on the Key Biscayne Beach with, among others over 15 years, friends who are professional pilots; a college dean; a psychiatrist, and many others, including one escaped burglar, and seen (one in a great while) odd lights that made them say: "What the hake was THAT?"

And I surely never know. Sometimes I've been SURE I had finally seen an inexplicable phenomenon. But, the next morning, my mind manages to explain away the previous night's certainty.

(Margery has one for-sure sighting. A weird multicolored pinwheel in the sky once, over Olive Branch, Miss. I have none although I've made it a point to go where flying saucer stories are . . . from PSI headquarters in Texas to lots of other places. And Charlie Hickson, who says he was picked up by space robots in Pascagoula, Miss., in the strangest story of all, has become a personal friend of mine.)

So, as I said, to encapsulate, after my call to Margery, I looked up and my friend Jack Roberts, the columnist, was leaping about scratching himself — having overheard my conversation — and explaining "my lights" were from the Planet of the Apes.

Later, Jack and I got to talking. He has, himself, interviewed Norman Bean, the leading saucer authority Glass quoted. And Jack, himself, saw a UFO . . . only a few days later, after that interview.

"He really did. He knows what he saw. (The cigar-shaped kind, against the sun.) He's a fact man. He used to be my city editor and he gets facts right.

"Did I psyche myself into seeing what I saw, because of the interview?" Jack wondered.

"Maybe," I said. "But, isn't it as likely that when we interview somebody like that, or even read a UFO story, we may consciously or subconsciously just tend to look up at the sky more?"

We don't know. None of us knows. I've been fooled, wildly excited by flares in the sky. Jack's been fooled, by Lubbock Light-type pictures which a photographer duplicated in no time on a bet.

We may all be fooled again. But you have to keep looking. We're all in this together, you know, on this little round chunk of dirt whirling through the no-reason. And, whether UFOs or why a mustard seed grows, we've already faced a little bit of the hard part . . . that we don't know.

That isn't bad, for a brand-new thing called man. We're a quick study. We seem to learn fast. (Say it over a few times. It gets easier and easier: We . . . don't . . . know . . .)

Thomas, The Gra Times Enterprise
 (Also Miami News 1-7-25) Nov 21, 1925

Miami popular for UFOs, specialists say

By IAN GLASS
Miami News Reporter

Two Miami experts in the field of Unidentified Flying objects have no doubt that the mysterious "things" seen over Miami International Airport yesterday morning by six Highway Patrol troopers were, indeed, UFOs.

"This was an extremely typical experience," said Norman Bean, one of the nation's top experts on flying saucers, an adviser to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). "Their moving in miscellaneous directions is a common phenomenon."

And Dr. Irving Lillien, an active member of the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO), said the descriptions of yesterday's sightings were "common."

Trooper Thomas Leis watched two of the objects for nearly 90 minutes, and another for a shorter period. The two objects hovered and moved east; the other went south and

then west. They had alternate red and blue flashing lights and a solid white light, he reported.

Neither the Miami International Airport control tower nor Homestead Air Force Base picked up the objects on radar.

Lillien, a chemistry professor at Miami-Dade Community College south campus, said, "The lights are a commonly reported phenomenon, though the patterns and colors can vary. And it is not unusual for there to have been several. They travel often in clusters."

Lillien said it is impossible to say why they move as they do, why they pick one particular spot — or even, indeed, if they are manned. "We just cannot define phenomena like this in terms of our own scientific limitations."

Although Air Force officials refuse to discuss flying saucers, Lillien said it is common knowledge they have a considerable file on

them. "They do not discuss Unidentified Flying Objects for the simple reason that the occupants could be hostile.

"Officialdom does not want these mysterious visitors to know how much it knows about them, and so, of course, it doesn't let anyone know."

Bean, who says he has seen 13 UFOs over Miami in the last decade or so, said it is not unusual for the objects to sit suspended over airports. "This happens at airports all over the world. It's as if they are curious about our methods of flight."

Bean said the last UFO he saw about a year ago had a red light. And two months ago, an object was seen over Hawaii and it was cylindrically shaped with a pointed nose and had an orange light.

Bean agreed the Air Force always has tried to hush reports of flying saucers, "but, in fact, officers at Homestead have told they have had sightings." The major project of the

Washington-based NICAP is to make the Air Force open its files on UFOs to the public.

"The Air Force's position on saucers is ridiculous," said Bean. "By denying their existence, the Air Force can hold anyone making a sighting up for ridicule, thus cutting down on a free flow of information."

Engineer Bean, 67 — he built the first walkie-talkie for Bell Laboratories in 1933 and Philco's first successful TV receiver in 1936 — is in demand locally as a speaker on UFOs.

He says there are two types of flying saucers. One is about 60 feet in diameter and round. The other is about 1,000 feet long and shaped like a cylinder.

Unfortunately for their research, it was too dark yesterday for the troopers to discern the shape of the objects over Miami.

And by the time it became light, they had disappeared.

'I've Seen 5 Flying

Saucers Over Miami'

By JACK ROBERTS

Columnist of The Miami News

Norman Bean is a well-known electrical engineer. He built the first walkie-talkie for Bell Laboratories back in 1933 and three years later built Philco's first successful TV receiver.

He became WTVJ's director of engineering development in 1950 and today is manager of special projects for the station, which includes design and construction of control room facilities.

I'm giving you this long list of credits so you'll know that Norman Bean, 59, athletically built and slightly bald, is no nut.

Yet Bean is one of the nation's leading experts on flying saucers. He says he knows they exist, that he has seen five of them in Miami skies since he began his investigations 14 years ago and they're flown by creatures about 4½ feet tall from somewhere beyond the confines of Earth.

Bean has pictures of flying saucers, supplied by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Bean is a special adviser to NICAP, a Washington-based outfit headed by a former Marine major and studded with former high ranking officers of the armed forces.

NICAP's major project, says Bean, is to make the United States Air Force open its files on unidentified flying objects to the public. "The Air Force's position on saucers is ridiculous," says Bean. "By denying their existence, the Air Force can hold anyone making a sighting up for ridicule. Obviously, this cuts down on a free flow of information."

Bean is in constant demand locally as a speaker before

civic groups and classrooms. He makes about 100 speeches a year and has collected thousands of flying saucer believers. That's how he made most of his personal sightings — people call him at all hours to report strange craft in the skies over Miami.

What does a flying saucer look like? Bean says there are two types. One is about 60 feet in diameter and fairly round. The other is cigar shaped and about 1,000 feet long.

Bean says the cigar-shaped vehicles are mother ships, capable of disgorging eight or more of the smaller, saucer-like objects.

"We have good reason to believe that the Air Force has wreckage from at least four of these smaller vehicles and has been conducting studies of such wreckage at Wright Field for years," says Bean.

"But it's something like turning a color TV set over to Ben Franklin 200 years ago and saying, 'Here Ben, you're our top scientist, study it and see how it works.' "

Bean says numerous centers of learning have been given government grants to study the effects of gravity and how gravity can be overcome. This, he says, is the key to unlocking the secret of the flying saucers. The nation which unlocks this secret first will have a power far greater than any atomic bomb device.

How can Bean be so certain flying saucers exist? "Because it's really nothing new," he says. "These things were being sighted back in the Middle Ages and further back than that. They come in waves. Last year was great for UFO sightings."



THIS PHOTO of Unidentified Flying Object was taken by Radio Officer T. Fogel, aboard the S. S. Ramsey off the coast of California in December 1957.

Bean says that during peak periods of saucer activity up to 400 sightings a week occur. "And when you put the reports together, you can track their paths on a given day," said Bean. "They're capable of traveling about 5,000 miles an hour and they can stop on a dime. After a few wobbles, which is customary for the hovering position, the craft can take off at fantastic speeds in the opposite direction."

Bean says his training as an engineer makes him realize that nothing could withstand the G forces of stopping so suddenly unless both saucer and occupants travel in an aura free of gravity.

"We have documented accounts of the creatures on board. Reliable witnesses from separate sightings describe the creatures as about 4½ feet tall with large, target like eyes. Their ears are prominent, they have a small mouth and either no nose or a very small nose."

When I talked to Bean he was carrying a Feb. 22 issue of Look Magazine, which devoted several pages to recent sightings of flying saucers in and around Exeter, N. H., during the past year. The Look article was based on the sighting of one man who observed a saucer at very close range, went and got a policeman and had him view the saucer also.

A Look reporter discovered, however, that dozens of people in southern New Hampshire had made similar sightings during the same time period. It had become something of a game to look for the saucers.

"That's the way it goes," commented Bean. "There are literally thousands of

saucer sightings verified and documented by not one or two people but several people. Enough people have seen these things now to make the various Air Force explanations look awfully thin. As a matter of fact, the Air Force really says nothing. The whole effort is aimed at making people who say they've seen these ships look silly."

After talking with Bean, I tried to tackle the Air Force on his statements. A spokesman at Homestead Air Force Base let me know quick that I would have to reach higher.

"We don't evaluate reports on unidentified flying objects, we simply pass them along to the proper officials at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio," said the Homestead officer.

I learned such reports are forwarded to the Foreign Technology Department of the Air Force Systems Command. Repeated calls to Wright-Patterson finally produced a public relations officer named Lt. Bolty, a very charming young lady who listened to Bean's complaint and replied:

"That's at a higher level of comment. You'd have to talk to our commanding officer."

She said he would call back and discuss the matter. But that was two days ago and somehow I have the feeling we'll never get around to a friendly saucer chat.

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THE MYSTERIOUS...

Present

By **ROBERT BOWDEN**

Times Bureau

BRADENTON — A "good" UFO report is a hard thing to come by.

Most of the time, the reports are quickly dismissed as the work of overactive imaginations or the observation of natural phenomena.

But how to explain what Patrick Thrush saw the night of Dec. 13?

This report is different in three respects: There are two photographs of what Thrush says he saw; there is physical evidence in the form of three rocks Thrush says were dropped by the UFO; there is a knowledgeable witness and at least two other collaborating and disinterested witnesses.

BRIEFLY, this is what Thrush says he observed: He was driving to the home of a friend about 8:50 p.m. when he saw what he first thought to be an airplane going down in the vicinity of Manatee Avenue at the Braden River.

Thrush drove to the river and pulled his car off the road and down an embankment on the east side. He says as his car bounced down the embankment, the headlights picked up a hovering object about 20 feet above the water with a tube that led from the craft to the river.

Thrush took a camera from his car and snapped two frames, using a strobe light. The tube pulled back into the craft, Thrush says, and the UFO began a slow descent

toward the 16-year-old. It passed about seven feet above his Toyota and Thrush says he heard something strike the hood of the car. The craft passed over Thrush, emitting a blue-green light and continued eastward in a wide, slow arc.

It turned southward, changed to a red color and disappeared, he says.

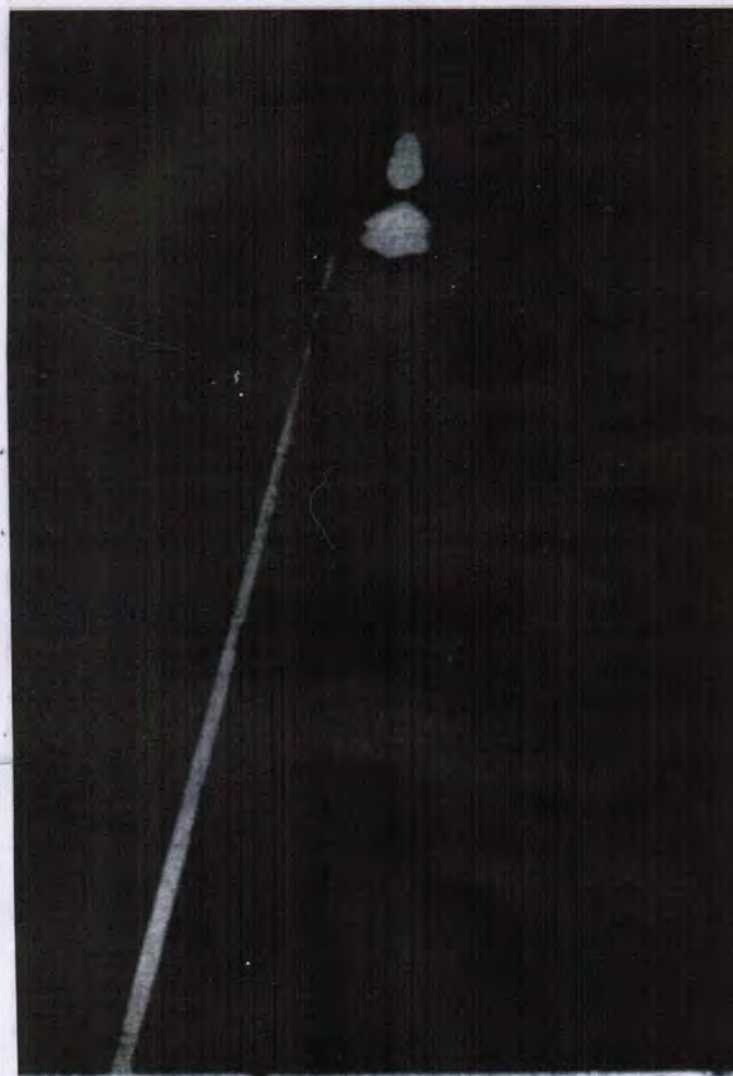
At about the same time, John Dowdy, 18, was on Morgan-Johnson Road about two miles east of Thrush's location. Dowdy says he looked up and observed a "bright orange object, going really fast." The object, Dowdy says, turned southward, appeared to stop and then disappeared.

IN PALMA Sola Park, George Montgomery glanced out of a west window and saw a strange light in the sky. Above and below the bright light were two smaller lights. The two merged into the bright light and disappeared. The time was roughly the same as that given by Thrush.

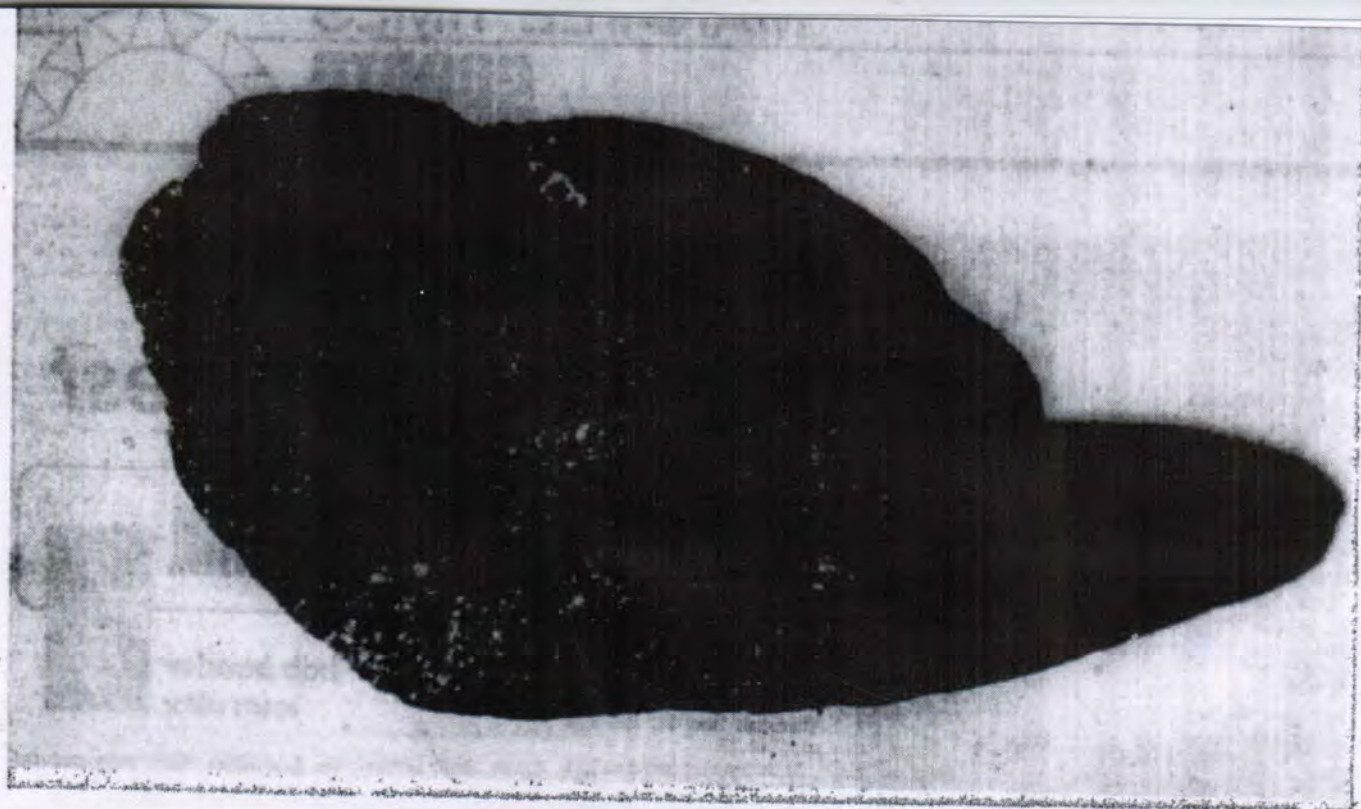
Thrush returned to his car and found a warm, dry rock. A search revealed two more such rocks, each having a lava-like appearance. Thrush called the police.

Patrolman Chris Schmidt responded and began the investigation. The official report makes no firm conclusion, but Schmidt has been quoted as saying he believes young Thrush is sincere.

(See UFO, Page 3)



Thrush's Photo Of UFO Over Braden River



Staff Photo by Robert Bowden

Rock Which Was Reportedly Dropped From Unidentified Craft

UFO

(Continued from Page 1)

Thrush certainly is not your run-of-the-mill 16-year-old. He is a high school dropout who defies the stereotype. Thrush simply found the education process too slow, the teachers too dull and uncommitted. He is a former science fair winner, did trigonometry and advanced algebra in the seventh grade, draws blueprints, has a vast knowledge of physics and electronics, designs and builds custom electronic equipment, and looks for all the world like the Boy Scientist.

His hair tousles Medusa-like in random mopet fashion. His horn-rimmed eyeglasses slide down the nose with his changing expressions and gestures. He is slightly overweight, a boyish pudginess, and dresses conservatively.

THRUSH SPEAKS a language few college graduates would understand. His measurements are angstroms and ergs. His theories embrace concepts explained in *Scientific American* or propagated in incomplete form at MIT.

He is a camera buff who understands darkroom work. His father was a metallurgist.

With this background, could Patrick Thrush have faked the pictures? Yes. Could Thrush have faked the evidence? Time will tell. Could Thrush have made up a scientifically valid story to support a pet theory or further his

from another planet in another solar system.

Based on what he observed, Thrush believes the craft is navigated by magnetic push-pull. To visualize how this might work, imagine placing a movable magnet in the magnetic field of a fixed magnet. The movable magnet will move toward the other. If the

clear fusion.

THRUSH BELIEVES the power for the fusion device might be deuterium or tritium. These substances could be called heavy hydrogen. Scientists estimate a few drops, properly utilized, could produce vast amounts of energy.

The deuterium or tritium

Thrush is not your run-of-the-mill 16-year-old.

personal ambitions? Yes.

Did he?

Thrush is willing to take a lie detector test, but there are those who consider this proof inconclusive. Thrush's rock is now being analysed by a scientist at the University of South Florida. Thrush is excited, not frightened, in anticipation of the results. He also took his undeveloped film to a newspaper for processing and printing.

HE ACTS, and sounds, sincere.

He believes he saw a craft

power is increased, it will move faster.

To generate the magnetism, Thrush believes, an incomplete MIT concept called a mercury pool is used. A nuclear fusion device provides heat between two mercury pools. The pools rotate in opposite directions, creating a magnetic force between them. Some type of shield or conductor directs the force.

To date, we have not yet perfected a nuclear fusion device for controlled reactions. The hydrogen bomb uses nu-

would be processed from water, H₂O, with the oxygen separated and used for breathing purposes.

The Manatee Times contacted Norman S. Bean, a charter member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), and widely known lecturer on UFOs. Thrush's observations and theory were explained to Bean.

Bean immediately reacted to the rock discovery. He said 50 pounds of similar rocks were found after a UFO passed over Erie, Pa. Bean had a list of substances that

would be found in the rock and said the rock comes from the exhaust stacks of UFOs.

Bean — a retired electrical engineer who designed the first television receiver for Philco in 1936, developed radar receivers for the Army and Navy, and designed the TV camera for guided missiles — believes strongly in flying saucers and that there is life on the saucers.

HE SAID the pictures Thrush took are of minimal use at best, noting that skeptics have not believed very clear photographs reportedly taken of UFOs.

Bean said a number of UFO sightings are connected with water being pumped in or out of UFOs. He said he was not sure in what manner the water is used, but he did not believe it was fuel.

Bean also believes the crafts are magnetically controlled and that they use atomic reactors for power sources. He said the UFOs

utilize an anti-gravity force, and that when an earthly nation discovers the secret "it will rule the skies."

Thrush had thought the change in color from blue-green to red might have been a movement up the electromagnetic spectrum as the craft increased power. The color would be a form of dissipating excess energy.

But Bean said the color shift is a voltage function, that the crafts set up an electro-static field around themselves. "Air doesn't touch the ship," Bean said, "neither do meteors. The electro-static field is a repulsion device which creates a color because of the voltage needed."

BUT BRADENTON physicist-engineer Victor Ketner said the color shift might be "after image" created by the human eye. Ketner said when the eye observes a bright object and the light disappears, the retina retains an after-image, which undergoes a shift in color.

Color changes are also observed when atmospheric conditions such as pollution or fog interfere with clear observations. The atmospheric interference is the cause of "twinkling" stars and blue-green colorations.

The rock is now being studied by Dr. Larry Doyle. Dr. Doyle said a preliminary examination showed the rock to be a cinder produced from an extreme heat source. He expressed interest in further analysis, but said it could take up to two weeks to complete.

If the rock should turn up a mineral or combination of elements unknown on earth, then maybe Patrick Thrush will be vindicated from those who do not believe. But it is doubtful such a discovery will be made, certainly based on what Bean said about similar rocks.

So the question will remain: Are we really being visited by alien spacecraft and did Patrick Thrush see and photograph one?

St Pete Times
12-23-73 (cont)

PTAs SPEAK UP

Members To Lend Their Ears At Guest-Sprinkled Meetings

PTA members are getting an education for themselves with a variety of guest speakers slated to talk this week.

Perhaps the most unusual topic is that selected for the Miami Park PTA Tuesday night. "Flying Saucers" will be explained by WTVJ director, Norman F. Bean. Mrs. Marvin Wooten and Ralph Bartlett, presidents of the PTA and Dad's Club respectively, will share the 8 p.m. business meeting. Mrs. A. I. Padgett is program chairman; Mrs. Harold Samuels is in charge of hospitality.

The Miami News - Mar 8, 1954

TIES Group To Hear Of Flying Saucers

Norman S. Bean, technical advisor at Station WTVJ, will speak at a dinner of the TIES Association in Howard Johnson's restaurant, 1100 Biscayne Blvd., at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

His talk will deal with recent developments in the studies of the so-called "Flying Saucers." Another speaker will be Coston C. Crouse, whose subject will be the raising of chinchillas.

The Miami News - Dec 5, 1957

'Saucer' Talk Slated

Norman S. Bean, who has made a study of unidentified flying objects, will address the Brotherhood of Temple Israel at 6:30 p.m. today at the Pub Restaurant, 3500 Coral Way. His topic will be "Satellites and Saucers."

The Miami News - Nov 7, 1953

NORMAN S. BEAN TO REVIEW BOOKS ON FLYING SAUCERS

Flying saucers are back in the news again.

This time the chief discussion is centering around two recent books on the subject: "Flying Saucers From Outer Space" by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, U. S. Marine Corps, Ret., and "Flying Saucers Have Landed" by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski.

At 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Norman S. Bean, research engineer for WTVJ, who has made a special study of flying saucers, will review the two books at a meeting of the Churchman's Club of Miami Shores Community Church.

Ladies night will be observed by the group.

The Miami News - Sep 16, 1953

Air Reserve Unit Meeting Tonight

The first meeting of the newly-organized Flight B of the 9882nd Volunteer Air Reserve Squadron will be held at Village Hall, NE 114th Street and 6th Avenue, Biscayne Park, at 8 p.m. today.

The newly activated flight is under the command of Capt. John Harkness, City Judge of North Miami.

WTVJ Electronics Engineer Norman Bean will address the flight on the subject of flying saucers.

All air reservists in the Biscayne Park and North Miami areas are invited to attend the meeting.

The Miami News - Feb 5, 1956

Husbands To Pay A Penny A Pound

Weighing in at the door, Coral Gables Junior Woman's Club husbands will pay a penny per pound of flesh for the food they will eat at the club's buffet supper on Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

"Out of this world" entertainment for the husbands will be provided by Norman S. Bean, designer of a TV camera used on a guided missile project and whose hobby is collection of information on flying saucers.

The Juniors' annual Cabaret, for the benefit of the Coral Gables Dental Clinic—major project of the club — will be discussed during the business session. The benefit will be the Club's 18th annual Cabaret Dance.

Bank Auditors Meet Sept. 18

Bank auditors of South Florida are resuming monthly meetings after the July-August recess. The South Florida Conference of the National Association of Bank Auditors and Comptrollers will meet at the Governors' Club Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Sept. 18.

A meeting of directors will take place at 5 p.m. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 o'clock and the program will get under way promptly at 7:30.

Norman Bean, Station WTVJ, Miami, will be the speaker. His topic has not been revealed.

Bean To Speak Here

Norman S. Bean, Miami radio figure described as an "expert on flying saucers" is booked as the speaker at Tuesday's Kiwanis Club luncheon at the Palm Beach Towers.

Kiwanians' wives and friends will be guests.

To Talk On Saucers

Flying saucers have popped up again, this time as subject of a talk to be given Friday by Norman Bean, engineering director of TV station WTVJ, at the regular meeting of the Aerodex Management Club at the Colony Restaurant, 3500 Coral Way.

Discussion Group

Discussion Group of the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Miami Section, will hear Norman Bean of WTVJ, believer in flying saucers, who will speak on "Mystery From Outer Space" on Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Swartz, 3300 Granada Blvd., Coral Gables. The 8:15 p.m. program will be presented by Mrs. Mike Baskin, chairman.

Flying Saucer Speech Slated

Flying saucers will be the topic of Norman F. Bean, radar specialist and television engineer, when he speaks to the Soroptimist International of Northeast Miami at their program dinner meeting, Monday, 7 p.m. at Old Scandia Restaurant, Opa-locka.

Dr. Charlotte Wolfsohn is in charge of the program, assisted by Margery Whitehouse and Mrs. William Wolfe Smith.